to these States from June, '93 onwards. Railways have also withdrawn ceiling limits for sponsoring movement of coal and State Governments have been asked to sponsor the requirements of consumers freely for the year 1994.

IMPORT OF COAL BY GUJARAT ELECTRICITY BOARD

2320. SHRIMATI CHANDRIKA ABHINANDAN JAIN : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Gujarat Electricity Board has decided to import two million tonnes of Coal for power generation against the advice of Coal India Ltd. ;

(b) if so, the reasons given by the Board for such import;

(c) whether the import has been allowed by Government; and

(d) *if not, what steps are being taken* by Government to resolve the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) to (d) Under the current export and import policy, coal can be freely imported and no permission/ licence is required for import of coal by *thermal power stations.*

Coal India Ltd. and the railways are in a position to meet full requirements of power stations in Gujarat. The coal demand of power houses of Gujarat Electricity Board as assessed by the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) vis-a-vis actual supplies during the last three years are given below :

(Data provisional)

Year	Demand (in 000 tonnes)	Actual supplies tonnes)	% materialisation
1990–91	7820	8401	107%
1991–92	9013	9272	103%
1992–93	10873	11071	102%
1993–94 . . . . . (upto Oct., 93)	6530	6600	101%

The above data indicates that the supplies have been more than the assessed demands. Due to improved coal despatches the thermal power generation in the State has gone up.

In view the significant improvement in production and despatches of indigenous coal, Coal India Ltd. and Singaroni Collieries Company Ltd. are confident of meeting the full coal requirements of power stations in the country including power stations in Gujarat.

LOW ASH COKING COAL FOR STEEL AND POWER PLANTS

2321. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that country need low ash coking coal for Steel Plants and low ash non-coking coal for Power Plants;

(b) if so, what is the actual requirement per annum and how much could be supplied through our indigenous sources; and

(c) what are the details of the Coal reserve claimed to be proved and how much of the total proved reserve is suitable for Steel Industry and how much of it is suitable for Power industry ?